

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A faucet comprising:

(A) a valve body having a bore that has axially aligned inlet and outlet ports and having a seat disposed adjacent said outlet port;

(B) a shank to which the valve body is connected, said shank having an inlet, an outlet opening into said inlet of said valve body, and an interior passage having at least a downstream portion that terminates at said outlet of said shank and that is radially aligned with and that opens into said inlet port of said valve body;

(CB) a plunger disposed in said valve body between said inlet port and said outlet port, wherein said plunger has an upstream end and a downstream, free end, and wherein said plunger is moveable axially within said bore, in a direction parallel to fluid flow, from a valve-open position to a valve-closed position, an extension being located on said upstream end of said plunger and having a free upstream end that forms said free end of said plunger and that extends into said downstream portion of said passage in said shank when said plunger is in both said valve-open position and said valve-closed position; and

(DE) a valve seal mounted on said plunger, wherein said seal seals against said seat when said plunger is in said valve-closed position and is spaced from said seat when said plunger is in said valve-open position, and wherein at least a majority of said plunger is

configured to be immersed in fluid in said bore when said plunger is in said valve closed position.

2. (Original) The faucet as recited in claim 1, further comprising a flow-modifying tip disposed on said downstream end of said plunger, said tip extending at least partially into said outlet port when said plunger is in said valve-open position.

3. (Original) The faucet as recited in claim 2, wherein said flow modifying tip is integral with said plunger.

4. (Currently Amended) A faucet comprising:

(A) a valve body having a bore that has axially aligned inlet and outlet ports and having a seat disposed adjacent said outlet port;

(B) a plunger disposed in said valve body between said inlet port and said outlet port, wherein said plunger has an upstream end and a downstream, free end, and wherein said plunger is moveable axially within said bore, in a direction parallel to fluid flow, from a valve-open position to a valve-closed position;

(C) a valve seal mounted on said plunger, wherein said seal seals against said seat when said plunger is in said valve-closed position and is spaced from said seat when said plunger is in said valve-open position, and wherein at least a majority of said plunger is configured to be immersed in fluid in said bore when said plunger is in said valve closed position; and

(D) a flow-modifying tip disposed on said downstream end of said plunger, said tip extending at least partially into said outlet port when said plunger is in said valve-open position, and ~~The faucet as recited in claim 2,~~ wherein said flow modifying tip has a larger diameter at its upstream end and a smaller diameter at its downstream end.

5. (Currently Amended) The faucet as recited in claim 42, wherein said flow modifying tip is substantially conical.

6. (Original) The faucet as recited in claim 2, wherein said flow modifying tip is substantially cylindrical.

7. (Currently Amended) The faucet as recited in claim 42, wherein said flow modifying tip has a flange at said upstream and is conical at said downstream end.

8. (Currently Amended) The faucet as recited in claim 42, wherein said flow modifying tip is substantially bulbous.

9. (Original) The faucet as recited in claim 1, wherein said plunger is at least essentially entirely immersed in fluid during fluid dispensation and during periods of non-use.

10. (Original) The faucet as recited in claim 1, further comprising a handle having a pivotal lever which terminates within said plunger, said lever being configured to drive said plunger to move axially within said bore upon pivotal movement of said lever.

11. (Original) The faucet as recited in claim 10, wherein said faucet is configured to dispense a liquid, and wherein said plunger is fluted to permit an exterior surface of said plunger to be washed with liquid flowing over said plunger.

12. (Currently Amended) A faucet comprising:

(A) a valve body having a fluid source connection portion containing an inlet and an integral downward turning spigot connection portion containing an outlet;

(B) a shank to which said valve body is connected, said shank having an inlet, an outlet opening into said inlet of said valve body, and an interior passage having a downstream portion that terminates at said outlet of said shank and that is radially aligned with and that opens into said inlet port of said valve body, said downstream portion tapering radially outwardly toward a downstream end thereof;

(CB) a horizontally-oriented bore within said body, wherein an inlet port is formed from an upstream end of said bore and an outlet port is formed from a downstream end of said bore, and wherein said inlet port and said outlet port are axially aligned with one another;

(DE) a plunger disposed within said valve body between said inlet and outlet ports, said plunger having an upstream end and a downstream end, wherein said plunger is

moveable axially within said bore, in a direction parallel to fluid flow, from a valve-open position to a valve-closed position, and wherein at least a majority of said plunger is configured to be immersed in fluid in said bore when said plunger is in said valve closed position, an extension being located on said upstream end of said plunger and extending into said downstream portion of said passage in said shank when said plunger is in both said valve-open position and said valve-closed position, said extension being of reduced diameter when compared to that of at least a central portion of said valve body and having a free upstream end, said extension tapering radially inwardly toward said upstream end thereof at in a manner that at least generally matches the taper of said downstream portion of said passage in said shank;

(ED) a flow modifying tip that is disposed on said downstream end of said plunger that extends at least partially into said outlet port when said plunger is in said valve-open position;

(FE) a valve seal disposed on said plunger in the vicinity of ~~the~~said downstream end thereof; and

(GF) a valve seat between said inlet and outlet ports, wherein said valve seal seals against said seat when said plunger is in said valve-closed position and is spaced from said seat when said plunger is in said valve-open position.

13-17 (Canceled).

18. (New) The faucet as recited in claim 1, wherein said extension is of reduced diameter when compared to that of at least a central portion of said valve body.

19. (New) The faucet as recited in claim 18, wherein  
said downstream portion of said passage in said shank tapers radially outwardly toward a downstream end thereof; and wherein  
said extension of said plunger tapers radially inwardly toward said upstream end thereof at in a manner that at least generally matches the taper of said downstream portion of said passage in said shank.

20. (New) The faucet as recited in claim 19, wherein said extension of said plunger is generally circular in transverse cross section and is tapered so as to decrease progressively in diameter from a maximum diameter at said downstream end thereof to a tip at said upstream end thereof.

21. (New) The faucet as recited in claim 1, wherein the plunger is at least generally square when viewed in transverse cross-section.

22. (New) The faucet as recited in claim 12, wherein said extension of said plunger is generally circular in transverse cross section and is tapered so as to decrease progressively in diameter from a maximum diameter at said downstream end thereof to a tip at said upstream end thereof.

23. (New) The faucet as recited in claim 12, wherein the plunger is at least generally square when viewed in transverse cross-section.